402 A heavy-machinery plant to produce large metal-cutting machines, coke ovens, overhead cranes, etc., has been under construction at Taiyuan since 1953.[28] Also reported under construction are repair plants for mining equipment at Taiyuan and Ta-t'ung.[29] The largest textile machinery plant in Communist China is located at Tientsin, while Peking is said to have a large machine-tool plant under construction, as well as a farm machinery plant reported to have manufactured the first combine harvester in China.[30] A mining machinery plant has also been reported at Kalgan.

However, the entire machinery industry of North China is in its infancy and the bulk of the country's production is still concentrated in Manchuria, especially at Shen-yang (Mukden).

E. Cement Production

339 In the constuction field two of the principal cement plants are located at Liu-li-ho and Tang-shan, both in Hopei Province. There is also a smaller plant at Taiyuan. Another plant located at Ta-t'ung, reportedly destroyed at the end of World War II, was put back into operation in January 1955, while a large new mechanized

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28. Wen-hui Daily, Hong Kong, June 20, 1953.

29. Cheng Chu-yüan, Chung-kung Wu-nien Chi-hua P'ou-hsi [An Analysis of Chinese Communist First Five-Year Plan] . Hong Kong, July 1955, p. 40.

30. NCNA, Dec. 19, 1953 and April 12, 1955.

339 plant was under construction in the same city.[31] Completion of the latter plant would greatly enhance the importance of Ta-t'ung as a cement production center. Such a development would be highly advantageous for construction work in North and Northwest China and would make available more cement for export to Manchuria from North China.

F. The Chemical Industry

385 Since Hopei ranks first in China's salt production, the province has also developed a chemical industry, based, in the first place, on salt. The present Yung-li Company, largest manufacturer of chemicals, grew out of the Chiu-ta Salt Refinery, and the latter's name suggests its chief product.

Before the war with Japan, Yung-li had an annual capacity of 77,000 tons of soda ash and 11,000 tons of caustic soda. Production was expanded during the war and the products included soda ash, caustic soda, ammonium sulphate and chlorine gas.[32] The company was placed under joint management by the Communist government in 1952. The annual rate of soda ash production,

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31. Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong, Feb. 10, 1955, p. 172.

32. Yuan-li Wu, op. cit., pp. 300-301.

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MAKING SUN DRIED BRICKS

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BLACKSMITH SHOP

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